

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

Remote Meeting via Zoom
Thursday 11/19/2020, 5:30-7:00pm
Minutes

Attending: Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Carole Collins, Jay Lord, Tara Kurland, Phil Elmer, Marlo Warner, Hannah Rechtschaffen, MJ Adams, Mike Pattavina **Absent:** Jacob Frank **Guests:** Lindsay Rowe, Penny Ricketts **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato

Meeting called to order: 5:35 pm

Introductions/Updates- with role of committee member noted

Marlo Warner, DPW director

- Buttoning up for winter
- Fiske Ave phase one complete! Fun to work with Carole Collins & others. Hope to complete in spring.
- Paul Raskevitz, his right-hand person and tree warden, has taken a job closer to home. He wants to thank him publicly for his 13 years of work in Greenfield! The position is being advertised. Paul Newell, certified arborist, will fill tree warden job for now.

Carole Collins, Director of Energy & Sustainability

- Fiske Ave done! So much fun to collaborate with DPW, Parks & Recs, and many residents headed up by Wisty Rorabacher. Collaboration & partnerships are transformative!

Nancy Hazard, At Large member

- Kudos on Fiske Ave project – it is gorgeous!
- DPW – so sorry to hear Paul Raskevitz leaving – he was so wonderful to work with!
- DPW- sympathy for pending budget cuts – and thanks to DPW for all it does for our town! How can it keep doing all that it does for Greenfield with these cuts?
- Pollinators – FRCOG's 8-town project (including Greenfield) to map corridors and develop a tool kit has started. It is exciting to see how many resources we already have, and the potential to expand pollinator habitat!
- Outdoor education: Jamye Winell, GMS ELL teacher, has started a GMS Garden Club!

MJ Adams, Director Community & Economic Development, and fills the Department of Planning & Development seat - has been focusing on homelessness. Expansion of shelter in process, but interim is challenging!

Hannah Rechtschaffen, At Large member, and SGIC chair – reported on progress of the GCC/Creating Rural Innovation Center. It is now applying for grants. There is a lot of downtown potential with this effort!

Phil Elmer, City Council representative

- ADU-council reversed previous decision. Detached ADU's will need to apply for a special permit.
- Fielding difficult calls from constituents about funding the new library and fire station.

Lindsay Rowe, guest, Community Development Administrator – She will hold a CDGB public hearing on Wednesday, Dec 2 – at noon and again at 6pm in preparation for applying for next year's grant

George Touloumtzis, Planning Board representative – the NE regional Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) reported in Recorder looks encouraging! It aims to cap greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector and raise funds for public transit.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes - MJ made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mike. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth Commission- Youth Commission Chair, Penny Ricketts, came to share her goals for the Youth Commission and to discuss how they can collaborate with SGIC. Penny indicated they are looking to recruit more young people to join the Commission, are looking for ways to get feedback from Greenfield youth

particularly on challenges during COVID, and looking for ideas for increasing youth involvement. She also mentioned she would like to include a focus on race and diversity. Suggestions and comments from committee members included:

- Creation of a City Council Intern
- Employment with the DPW, there are potential grants in process to fund these types of positions.
- Playing fields on State land near jail. A survey just went out looking for input on the Open Space and Recreation plan, which is in the process of being updated. This may be a way to encourage potential uses for this land.
- Food drives as a way to encourage youth participation.
- Carole suggested Tim Dolan as a good contact for youth prospects as he worked with several to get feedback on the Teen section of the library.
- MJ is hoping to get youth input on the Downtown Revitalization Plan.

Energy Department Updates – Carole updated the committee on current projects in the Energy and Sustainability Department including the Millbrook Solar project, which is under construction and promises \$63,000 in savings per year, and the Police Station HVAC upgrade, both slated to be complete at year end. She also reported on exciting numbers for overall energy savings in Greenfield municipal operations, with 27.3% savings when compared to 2008, and the achievement of more than 20% savings for 4 years in a row, an accomplishment only 18 other Towns have achieved. Carole developed a handout with many additional accomplishments listed. She highlighted that City buildings are achieving much better Energy Use Intensities (EUI), with most being under 45, the standard for good energy efficiency, and that the new library and fire station are on track to have EUIs of 25. Carole also noted her activity on the Planning and Construction Committee as being key to continued progress, and she would like to take it a step further by instituting design guidelines or metrics that are required for new capital projects. She also felt the pandemic may provide an opportunity to recreate our world for the better, citing outdoor education as an example of one way to move forward post-COVID.

Downtown Revitalization Plan- MJ reported an economic assessment and market analysis of the Downtown is being performed and the results should be available at the end of the month. She would like committee members to look at the previous Downtown plan from 2003 and bring ideas for the next plan. Nancy feels this is a critical time to develop this plan as it shows Greenfield is an active community and might attract people who are looking to relocate.

Homeless - MJ noted providing shelter for the homeless this winter faces challenges due to temporary construction. They are considering using the Transit Center. Carole also suggested using buses.

Low Impact Development (LID) - The first LID hearing for updating the zoning ordinance is taking place immediately following this meeting. The second hearing that addresses the subdivision regulations is scheduled for December 17th, at 7pm.

Next Meeting – December 17, 5:30-7:00 pm via Zoom.
Adjourned at 6:56 pm